

## California teen arrested in Albany stabbing

by Cheryl McDermott

A 17-year old California resident was arrested Tuesday afternoon in connection with the stabbing of an Albany man earlier that morning, detectives reported. The teen told police he thought the victim was breaking into a car.

Bryon Varela â€™ APD photo About 4:45 a.m. March 20, Albany Police responded to the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Calapooia Street to a report of a stabbing. They found the unidentified victim, a 40-year old Albany resident, lying in the street with a stab wound to his side. He was transported to Albany General Hospital for treatment, detectives said.

The victim told officers he was confronted by two males who accused him of breaking to cars in the 600 block of SW Fifth Avenue, and that without provocation, one of the males stabbed him.

Detectives canvassed the neighborhood and identified 17-year old Bryon Varela as the male who allegedly stabbed the victim. Varela, of Vacaville, California, was visiting his older brother at 710 SW Fifth Avenue, apartment # 7. Varela told officers that he and his brother, 21-year old Brandon Varela, thought they heard someone breaking into a vehicle and went outside armed with knives to investigate. Varela said they confronted the victim who was walking past, and during the confrontation the younger brother stabbed him before they both ran away.

Bryon Varela was taken into custody and lodged in the Linn Benton Juvenile Detention Facility. He is charged with first-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon.

The investigation is ongoing, and police ask that anyone who may have information regarding the incident to contact the Albany Police detective section at 541-917-7686.

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